



Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

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TROY, N.Y. WOMAN INDICTED FOR BANK FRAUD AND FORGERY OF TREASURY CHECK

Albany, New York —United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today that a federal grand jury in the Northern District of New York, in Albany, returned a two-count indictment charging **KENITA HOKE**, 44, of Troy, New York, with bank fraud (Count 1) and forging an endorsement on a United States Treasury check (Count 2).¹ If found guilty of Count 1, **HOKE** faces a statutory maximum sentence of thirty years imprisonment. Count 2 carries a statutory maximum sentence of ten years of imprisonment upon conviction. A maximum fine of \$250,000 applies to both counts. The indictment also seeks forfeiture of the proceeds of the offenses from **HOKE**.

The indictment alleges that, on September 24, 2009, **HOKE** knowingly executed a scheme to obtain monies from First Niagara Bank, a financial institution whose deposits were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses and representations. According to the indictment, **HOKE** deposited a \$10,190.73 United States Treasury check payable to another person into her account at First Niagara Bank, in Troy, N.Y.,

¹ The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

representing that the person had endorsed the check and made it payable to **HOKE**. Four days later, **HOKE** withdrew almost all of the proceeds of the check in two withdrawals, in the amount of \$6,000.00 and \$4,000.00, respectively. The indictment further charges that **HOKE**, with intent to defraud, falsely made and forged the endorsement and signature on the Treasury check and passed and uttered the check.

The charges are the result of an investigation conducted by the United States Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, the United States Secret Service, and the Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York.